IN THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1-16 as follows.

A status of the claims is provided below.

1. (Currently amended) A sanding machine having oscillation drive means ~~(3, 4)~~ for setting an abrasive ~~(1)~~ in an oscillating sanding movement, ~~characterized by~~ comprising an activating device ~~(7)~~ having a multiplicity of activating regions ~~(8)~~ triggered in such a way that various regions of the abrasive ~~(1)~~ are alternately activated independently of the oscillating sanding movement.

2. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the activating regions ~~(8)~~ are brought into use asynchronously relative to the oscillating sanding movement.

3. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~either of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the activating device ~~(7)~~ can be moved transversely to ~~the~~ a feed direction ~~(17)~~ of the workpiece ~~(6)~~ to be sanded.

4. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one o the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the activating regions ~~(8)~~ of the activating device ~~(7)~~ are raised lamellae arranged on a carrier ~~(11)~~.

5. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier ~~(11)~~ is a plate which can be moved in a reciprocating manner in ~~the~~ a sanding plane transversely to ~~the~~ a feed direction ~~(V)~~ of the workpiece ~~(6)~~.

6. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier ~~(11)~~ has endless conveying means revolving transversely to ~~the~~ a feed direction ~~(V)~~ of the workpiece ~~(6)~~.

7. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the activating regions ~~(8)~~ extend in ~~the~~ a form of raised lamellae on ~~the~~ a sanding plane diagonally, in a V shape, in a W shape, in a curved manner or so as to be offset one behind the other.

8. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, further comprising a pressure device having at least one pressure shoe which can be triggered and is arranged between the activating regions ~~(8)~~ of the activating device ~~(7)~~ and the abrasive ~~(1)~~.

9. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the abrasive ~~(1)~~ is mounted on a retaining device ~~(2)~~ and the retaining device ~~(2)~~ is mounted with the oscillation drive means ~~(3, 4)~~ on a sanding machine frame ~~(5)~~ in order to set the retaining device ~~(2)~~, relative to ~~the~~ a sanding machine frame ~~(5)~~, in a sanding movement oscillating parallel to ~~the~~ a sanding plane, which is defined by ~~the~~ a sanding surface of the abrasive ~~(1)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the activating device ~~(7)~~ is coupled to the sanding machine frame ~~(5)~~ and is uncoupled from the retaining device ~~(2)~~ at least in one direction of the sanding plane.

10. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, further comprising, ~~characterized in that~~ a plurality of activating devices ~~(7) are~~ arranged one behind the other in the feed direction ~~(V)~~.

11. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10, characterized in that~~ wherein the oscillation drive means ~~(3,4)~~ have rotatably driven eccentric shafts ~~(3a, 3b)~~ which extend vertically to ~~the~~ a sanding plane between the sanding machine frame ~~(5)~~ and the retaining device ~~(2)~~.

12. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising at least one of the eccentric shafts ~~(3a, 3b)~~ is displaceably mounted in one direction of ~~the~~ a sanding plane.

13. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the abrasive ~~(1)~~ is a sanding sheet interchangeably connected to the retaining device ~~(2)~~.

14. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the activating device ~~(7)~~ has flexible conduits ~~(18)~~ for receiving a medium, and pressure control means are connected to the conduits~~(18)~~, medium located in the conduits ~~(18)~~ being pressurized in a pulsating manner by the pressure control means.

15. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the abrasive ~~(1)~~ is a revolving endless sanding belt.

16. (Currently amended) A method of sanding a workpiece using a sanding machine as claimed one ~~of the preceding claims~~ in claim 1 by oscillating sanding movements, ~~characterized by~~ comprising alternate activation of various activating regions ~~(8)~~ of the abrasive ~~(1)~~ independently of the oscillating sanding movement.